

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1312

Introduced by Assembly Member Emmerson

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Anderson, Benoit, DeVore, Gaines, Galgiani, Huff, Jeffries, Keene, Maze, Nakanishi, Sharon Runner, Smyth, Strickland, Tran, and Villines)

~~(Coauthors: Assembly Members Keene, Nakanishi, and Villines)~~

February 23, 2007

An act to ~~repeal Section 14080.5 of~~ *add Section 14078.5 to* the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1312, as amended, Emmerson. Medi-Cal: health service costs.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which health care services are provided to qualified low-income persons.

~~Existing law provides that no increase in the reimbursement levels for physician and dental services under Medi-Cal shall be made for the period from July 1, 1982, to September 30, 1982, except to the extent funds may be provided in the Budget Act of 1982.~~

This bill would ~~repeal that provision~~ *require the Director of Health Care Services to increase reimbursement rates for physician services and hospitals under the Medi-Cal program to a level that equals 80% of the Medicare reimbursement rate for those same services and would require the department to make specified determinations prior to a rate adjustment. It would specify that the adjustment does not apply to physician services for which reimbursement already equals or succeeds the 80% rate.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. Section 14078.5 is added to the Welfare and*
2 *Institutions Code, to read:*
3 *14078.5. (a) Commencing January 1, 2009, the director shall*
4 *increase reimbursement rates for physician services under the*
5 *Medi-Cal program to a level that equals 80 percent of the Medicare*
6 *reimbursement rate for those same services. This subdivision shall*
7 *not apply to physician services currently reimbursed at or above*
8 *80 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate.*
9 *(b) Prior to making a rate adjustment pursuant to subdivision*
10 *(a), the department shall consider the ability of Medi-Cal*
11 *beneficiaries to access physician services by geography and*
12 *specialty and shall request data from the Office of Statewide Health*
13 *Planning and Development to allow the department to determine*
14 *the extent of Medi-Cal physician shortages, if any, by geography*
15 *and specialty.*
16 ~~SECTION 1. Section 14080.5 of the Welfare and Institutions~~
17 ~~Code is repealed.~~